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# Pills Fell Wife of U2 Pilot



Mrs. Francis Gary Powers...rushed to two hospitals. (AP Photo)



Francis Powers...at wife's side. (UPI Photo)

WASHINGTON, April 20—Mrs. Barbara Powers, 27, attractive wife of U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, was rushed unconscious to a hospital before dawn today. Police said she had swallowed a heavy overdose of sleeping pills.

After a local rescue squad tore through the night to get her to the emergency room at Alexandria Hospital at 3:15 a.m., her condition was described as "very serious."

At 6:20 a.m., still unconscious, she was transferred by ambulance to Georgetown University Hospital. The executive director there, Dr. George Shields, said: "She is out of danger, but her condition is still being evaluated."

Her husband, 32, freed last February from a Moscow prison after he was shot down by the Russians as a spy, was with her at the Georgetown hospital. It is not known whether he accompanied the rescue squad which took her to the Alexandria.

ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL officials said she was treated for "medication reaction," and her stomach was pumped. Washington Police Lt. Nelson Rickey said doctors told him Mrs. Powers had taken sleeping tablets.

Mrs. Powers is the former Barbara Moore of Albany, Ga. The couple married in 1954 and have no children.

When he was based in Turkey for the secret U2 flights, she lived with him there. Along with other members of his family she attended his much-publicized spy trial in Moscow after his plane was knocked out of the sky in May, 1960. She was present in the courtroom on Aug. 19, 1960, he was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Mrs. Powers was living with her mother in Milledgeville, Ga., 18 months later, when the news came that Powers was free again, traded for Red masterspy Col. Rudolf Abel.

"It's so wonderful and unexpected, that I have been crying for joy—I really have," she said at that time.

POWERS AND HIS WIFE were together for about three weeks after he returned to this country last Feb. 11, living in a secret hideaway while the pilot was being questioned by the Central Intelligence Agency. Then the pilot went to Virginia to see his parents and Mrs. Powers returned to Milledgeville. Several weeks ago the couple moved into an apartment in Alexandria, outside Washington.

Powers' sister, Mrs. William E. Hileman, 25, of Glass Manor, Md., said they visited her home last weekend. She said Mrs. Powers talked of entering a hospital soon for allergy tests to determine the cause of a rash on her arms.

Powers is still employed by the CIA, but not as a pilot.